

## **REMARKS**

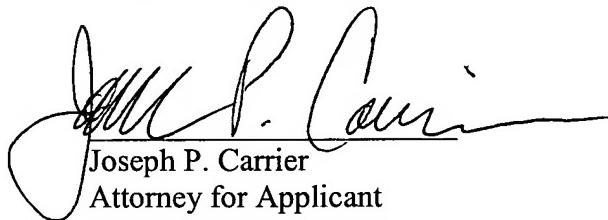
Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-16. Claims 1 and 14 are each independent.

The specification and claims have been amended to overcome minor informalities therein, to be more consistent throughout.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 15, 2004

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate No. ET986049317US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 15, 2004.

